

**Underwater Rugby Australia**

65 Tallow Wood Pl, Mt Gravatt East, QLD 4122

PO Box ###, Brisbane, QLD 4000, Australia

t. +61 416 561 677 | e. info@uwra.org.au

w. www.uwra.org.au | A.B.N ## ### ### ###

**MINUTES****UNDERWATER RUGBY AUSTRALIA EXECUTIVE MEETING**

<b>Time:</b>	8:00pm-10:15pm
<b>Date:</b>	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2017
<b>Venue:</b>	Benton's Apartment, Brisbane
<b>Attendees:</b>	Wayne Freeman ( <i>Chairman</i> ) Sophie Lamande ( <i>Secretary</i> ) Sebastien Robin ( <i>Tas Convicts Club Rep/ Acting Treasurer</i> ) Angus Lamin ( <i>Victoria Seadragons Club Rep</i> ) Carlos Ledezma ( <i>Chief Referee/ UNSW Whales Club Rep</i> ) Katelyn Ten Bensel ( <i>Perth Raiders Club Rep</i> ) Bobby Chen ( <i>Canberra Underdogs Rep</i> ) Benton Thistlethwaite ( <i>Brisbane Gauls Rep</i> ) Mustafa ( <i>Adelaide White Pointers Club Rep</i> )  Cansin Artun Ors ( <i>Victoria Seadragons Coach</i> ) Khazmira Bashir ( <i>Victoria Seadragons Player</i> )
<b>Absent:</b>	

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN</b> Meeting opened 8pm	
<b>SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS</b> Thanks for having us  <b>Cansin stated:</b> Our ideas are simple for growing the sport in Australia. Never benefit personal or Melbourne – growing in Australia we enjoy more overall. We need to fix the tournament rules – sometimes we play “round robin”, sometimes group, sometimes 10 minutes. Sometimes B teams allowed, sometimes not.  If we stay like this, we stay amateur. National success is a dream. Maybe we follow the European, or CMAS rules. For example, we are working 10 minute games – last minute change, plans are changed. UWRA should fix the rules for national tournament.  We are too far from Europe, heart of UWR. We need to make an UWR Australian league. No-one sponsor for just tournament, two days. If we make it a league – excites players, government, sponsors, everyone. League system like 3 or 2 tournaments. 3 <sup>rd</sup> : under 21 players – basic rule is you need at least one player under 21 to enter the league.  Are we separate or are we connected to AUF? <b>Wayne:</b> Last year we decided we were going to join AUF so that we could join CMAS competition, also insurance. We’re not “under” the	

AUF. We are the UWR commission, The AUF are the umbrella that we work under. They are not dictating anything.

Is there a benefit?

**Wayne:** insurance, secondly referees training course – AUF gave 3k for that. AUF & AUFQ have indicated that they can help with training. AUF going to support subsidise or pay for medals. For every member get some money back from AUF. They don't send us to world championships. They are only interested in how important we are.

**Katelyn:** UWH doesn't get sponsored by AUF. Turkey got a lot of funding. Sponsorship is poor here in Aus. UWRA doesn't control all the tournaments. At present, we've agreed to have 2 UWRA tournaments. Could be 2 league games or 2 tournaments plus also nationals.

**Cansin:** We need to first play good rugby in Australia. League system definitely works. Find sponsorships clearly. Everyone will know 1<sup>st</sup> round, Canberra, 2<sup>nd</sup> round Sydney etc.

Should be championships rather than nationals because nationals should be more like 1 team per state. Nationals came from hockey because they have a lot of teams each state. Should be championships

**Carlos:** Our idea is to aim for 3 main tournaments a year, whether they're called PPC, nationals, ODEX etc. trying to allow for flexibility. Nationals are tournaments of Australian states. We need more than 2 official tournaments but would hope that Pan Pacific would develop so it's not just in Australia. And we could replace that with a tournament like structure.

There's also champions cup to think about. Also, proves that the team has commitment to play well at multiple tournaments not just one. League good for recruiting. Best players etc. needs commitment from players to play over a year/season. Best way to get sponsors,

**Khaz:** would like to help if she can. People don't know UWR. It's a great sport, it's not hard to sell, we just need to do it.

If we are going to have to make the sport grow, we should have a League with 2 half round robins and a separate championship – the champions of the championship go to Berlin. One of the main things is to standardise the team and that the games are planned. Like international protocols. As a player who enjoys playing at a higher and higher level. Concerned for people that see it more as a recreational thing and would be turned away by the high level competition - Have social tournaments as well.

Khaz & Cansin to write proposal for league/championship set up Committee to review and workshop the idea

**Cansin &  
Khaz**

<p><b>CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES</b> Wayne read through previous minutes from Melbourne September 2016. Confirmed by committee</p>	
<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Bobby: SLACK</b> – is working well, keeps everything in one place. Downside - Emails can't be attached. Thing that could be improved – allow other people in the clubs to observe. One option - Share club details. Club reps should communicate from UWRA to clubs.</li> <li>○ <b>Carlos</b> to investigate read only account option or ability to view just one channel etc.</li> <li>○ No work has been done on the Website – Bobby hasn't had time.</li> <li>○ <b>Benton</b> has offered to sort out the website. Main focus - adding stuff to the website: invitations, documentation etc. Stuff gets buried on facebook. Photos for each competition. Maybe YouTube UWRA channel</li> <li>○ <b>Bank details for AUF?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All club reps to check with AUF that their bank details are correct and ensure funds are transferred accordingly. Bobby has checked</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>UWRA INCORPORATION</b></li> <li>○ Still where we were last meeting. Seb is volunteering for treasurer position. Putting the paperwork in now.</li> <li>○ Approach Khaz for treasurer position.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Carlos</b></p> <p><b>Benton</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>Wayne</b></p>
<p><b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b></p> <p><b>GRIEVANCE PROCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Carlos</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any issues that require sanctions needs to be brought up during the tournament. Refs need to have a meeting and the head ref brings the UWRA weight. Compulsorily part of pre-tournament meeting – process for grievances. Need to be brought up now as it happens.</li> <li>• There should be a panel on the event that discusses events like this – should be the referees of the tournament. Have the power to ban people to the next UWRA event</li> <li>• In one of the matches, I witnessed a very bad foul that upset me – it was a physical attack and the referees didn't see it happen. We didn't go to the refs – should have gone at the end of the match and immediately bring in the witnesses etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Compromise</b> – all the refs are on the panel but each team gets 1 vote. Infractions are going to happen in the middle of a game, but you don't have to address it on the spot. Carlos to write up a few lines for by-laws</p>	<p><b>Carlos</b></p>

NATIONAL TEAM DEVELOPMENT.

- The National team coach made proposal to take the NT to the **CC2017** instead of the team that wins the **2017 Nationals** in Perth. Men's team voted that they preferred to allow the WINNER of the 2017 NATIONALS to attend the Champions Cup. However, overwhelming number of players attending the NT training camp indicated that they would like to go to an international tournament in 2017.
- Proposal for the Female national team to go to CC2017 instead of the winning female champion team.
  - NT should not be trying to piggy back on the club championships. Should encourage teams to get their female teams happening.
  - If we don't have a female club able to go to CC, then NT can go. As soon as there's one team that can go and can field a team by nationals, they should be able to go.
  - No women's league planned at 2017 national championships as there was no response from clubs when enquiries were made
  - **Motion:** if there's no women's league at the national championships, that the Female National team can be sent to Champion's Cup – *passed unanimously*
- **Seb:** Need more people involved in the national team strategy and management – Nathan, Rach.
- How much coaches should be subsidised etc. Do we want coach who is a player or manager who is a player? Financial reimbursement for coach – currently 8 or 9k per event - \$200 per player.
- Plan was up until EC 2017 we would have Ricardo then we would have the position up for application of interest. We need job description, package reimbursement, expectations. In UWH, we usually try to maintain a coach over several championships. Don't get full reimbursements if you are also a player. Part of application – are they playing coach or not and are they willing to compromise on that.
- Need a clause that if you don't meet the requirement of coach, we can cancel contract. Last time there was a situation like that in hockey – there was a fractured team.
- Propose – work on job description for issue by end of the year. We need a strategy for the national team. Can't expect the coach and team to come up with vision. Current documentation is a great basis, If we want to have 2 coaches, then we need to come up with clear job description and package (Travel expenses? Per diem etc)
- Seb to start putting together formal coach job description

**Seb**

- At the last AUF AGM – they want the coaches to get qualifications that are recognised. National team coaches and club coaches need to start working towards that. In case anything goes wrong, AUF has insurance policy for coaches (PL and PI etc.)
  - UWRA should encourage the uptake of **Coaching certifications for UWR coaches in all teams**. This is required to assure all concerned parties that the UWRA is doing all in its power to ensure compliance to acceptable coaching standards and safety requirements of the various venues that we rent pools from for regular training and UWRA sanctioned events.

**DEDICATED MEDIA MANAGER**

- Having a dedicated person looking at media management has worked really well in growing our club (VIC) and would be really beneficial to have at the national level for UWRA
- Approach Khaz for the position

**NATIONAL TOURNAMENT DISCUSSION**

- Booked accommodation until end of April – one booking per club.
- Team costs - \$85-\$100 fees
- Pool booked – Fri 12pm– 9pm; Sat 8am-7pm; Sun 8am-4pm
- More professional compared to other tournaments - Double the amount of games. Full time physio, dedicated lifeguard, schedule and timing very clear, only profit on t-shirts, team lists, media etc. Double whammy for inviting school kids, recorded and screens but not livestreamed – will be uploaded, buzzers
- Sydney had online inscription system, made team lists very easy and did statistics automatically. Carlos to liaise with Nelson.
- Using players from UWH to supplement teams that are short

**FINANCES**

- Not rich

**PPC FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (+/- \$450 FOR MEDALS)**

- Ricardo requested access to funding for medals (+/- \$450) from AUFQ UWR commission account for PPC2017. Although funds are available and allocated to UWR activities in Qld it was felt that it should be used for UWRA/AUF sanctioned events and that the allocation should be a committee decision.
- As PPC was not an official UWRA event it was felt that funding was not an appropriate use of AUF funds unless all players were members of the AUF

## SPECIAL PROJECTS & VOTING

### UWRA EVENTS SCHEDULING

**NOTE:** - This is something that we as a committee need to move to the top of every meeting to ensure that all clubs and players have notification to allow them to plan their UWR program for the upcoming year.

Our present events schedule is as follows:

#### Nationals

- 2017 - Perth (26-28<sup>th</sup> May 2017)
- 2018 - Adelaide (March 2018) ????? To be confirmed by 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017
- 2019 - Tasmania
- 2020 - New South Whales

**Mustafa/  
Charlotte**

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Planned Event for 2017 & 2018

- Sydney has ability to have second tournament in second half of 2017.
- If Sydney is allocated the 2018 NATIONALS (ie. if ADL is unable to host) then the 2<sup>nd</sup> tournament in 2017 will be in Melbourne or Brisbane (Club Reps to confirm).
- 2<sup>nd</sup> tournament for 2018 will then be offered to Adelaide, Melbourne or Tasmania. Alternate Option - Singapore competition

**Angus  
Mustafa  
Benton  
Carlos**

#### Singapore 2018

- We are disappointed with decision of CMAS regarding EC2017. Singapore is the best option to collaborate to make a local international comp.
- Contact Graham Henderson - we want your assistant for accessing the non-Europe clubs willing to collaborate to create an ongoing tournament in the Asia Pacific region.
- Could be in years between world and Europe championships. Draw Europeans to an international comps in non CMAS years. Elaborate in meeting in Perth

### FEEDBACK ON PROPOSAL TO CMAS TO HAVE **2019 UWR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP** IN BRISBANE/AUSTRALIA.

- CMAS - World Championships 2019 application. Need to send application - check due date. Wayne has costings. Looked at Chandler. Need to fly in 15 refs from Europe plus food & accom.
- There should be one bid for Australia. Someone was going to be in charge of finding the best venue.
- Any state that wants to put in bid - put together a proposal - this is why this is the best venue. And people willing to organise it.
- We have 300 rooms in 1km of Chandler. Is it appropriate

**Wayne**

accom for a world championship? A lot of organisation will be involved.	
<b>NEXT MEETING</b> Perth May 2017	
<b>CLOSURE</b> Meeting closed 10:15pm	